



CATAWBA CARE CONNECTION

Volume 2, Issue 2

Summer 2007

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OUR MISSION

To promote optimal health for York, Chester and Lancaster County residents by providing medical care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and by educating the community to prevent the spread of HIV.

Executive Direction...

by Anita Case

Over the last year, HIV/AIDS funding across our nation has been in a state of change. South Carolina has experienced both crisis and celebration during this time, and we at CCC are proud of our efforts to improve funding in our state. Last fall, CCC staff and clients advocated for the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, the governmental funding source for HIV/AIDS services. We conducted a letter writing campaign and a personal visit with Congressman John Spratt. In January 2007, the CARE Act was reauthorized as

the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act.

We are also active in the SC HIV/AIDS Care Crisis Task Force, a statewide advocacy effort to educate legislators on the economic impact of HIV in SC. We have worked diligently this year to inform our local representatives through personal visits, phone calls, e-mails and a letter writing campaign. The SC legislature will soon make final funding decisions for the year, even as there are 470 people on SC's waiting list for life-saving HIV/AIDS medications.

Most recently, CCC's Client Advisory Board participated in a "bird-dog" training provided by Health Gap of Washington, DC that prepares clients to talk with presidential candidates regarding HIV/AIDS issues, especially important since SC is a key state for the upcoming election.

As the face of HIV/AIDS continues to change, CCC remains committed to providing top quality care and services to our community. Your help is always needed, and your donations do make a difference! Thank you.

Knowledge is Power!

Through a generous grant from the York County Community Foundation, CCC is now advertising in York County with its first ever billboards! We are pleased to report that in just the first month of placement, we have already received a number of calls and scheduled HIV testing specifically because people in our community saw these billboards.

We hope to expand our billboard program to Lancaster and Chester Counties in the near future.



DID YOU KNOW?

CCC has an endowment fund. Annual investment income earned from the endowment provides a valuable source of unrestricted income that helps us to meet program needs that are not grant funded. The principal from these funds also provides security for continuity of services in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Your contribution to the endowment really is the gift that keeps on giving! Call x243 for more information.

BOARD & STAFF UPDATES

- We would like to thank Wendy Baker for her service to CCC and the Board of Directors.
- CCC's Board Chair (Thomas Rowe) and Executive Director (Anita Case) will be participating this summer in the Johnson & Johnson UCLA Healthcare Executive Management Program.
- CCC's Executive Director completed Leadership York County in May.
- Three of CCC's staff (Sally Baker, Eli Branscome, and Jennifer McDaniel) completed master-level graduate programs this spring!

Planning for Future Success

Like many service agencies, we are often asked how we decide to add, revise or discontinue programs or services. As we have grown into the comprehensive organization that we are today, we have recognized the need for a formal plan to help guide us through these decisions and better set the course for a successful future.

In 2006, CCC's Board, Staff and Client Advisory

Board all participated in sessions that ultimately led to the development of our first organizational strategic plan. This plan covers 2007-2012 and is divided into four major goals: Presence & Growth; Reaching the Underserved; Organizational Stability; and Continuity.

CCC also recently participated in a technology planning program facilitated by NPower

Charlotte Region and funded by The Springs Close Foundation. CCC worked with NPower's technology consultants to develop an Information Technology Strategic Plan that addresses our IT needs over the next three years specifically in terms of maximizing our ability to provide the highest quality care and services.

With these plans as guides, we expect a great future!

Grants Update

CCC is pleased to announce a number of new and renewed grant-funded programs that will help us to better achieve our mission:

- **Chester Healthcare Foundation** is a new funder that will be supporting all of the HIV/AIDS services that we provide to residents of Chester County: medical care, support services and prevention education and testing.
- **Susan G. Komen for the Cure (Charlotte Affiliate)** will for the 2nd year be supporting our Breast Cancer Awareness Program, to ensure that women living with HIV/AIDS in our service area have access to breast health education and annual screenings and mammograms.
- **M•A•C AIDS Fund** will be supporting an expansion of our Prevention Services program that specifically targets the Hispanic communities in our service area.
- **The Springs Close Foundation** will be supporting our new on-site mental health services through a two-year grant.
- **United Way of York County** will be supporting all of the HIV/AIDS services that we provide to residents of York County: medical care, support services and prevention education and testing.

Our sincere thanks to the Rock Hill and Lancaster Alumnae Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for supporting us through their March 10th International Day of Service. At the Rock Hill event, the Deltas also organized York County's first human AIDS ribbon.

photo by Allen F. Blackmon



Welcome New Staff

- **Eli Branscome** has been working with CCC since fall 2006. He served as a Mental Health Counseling Intern while completing his Master of Arts in Counseling from UNC Charlotte. He has earned designation as a Nationally Certified Counselor and expects full licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor by January 2008. Eli has already developed a wonderful rapport with our clients while serving as an intern, and we look forward to having him as an official staff member!
- **Katrina Williams** has joined the CCC staff as our newest Case Manager. Katrina completed her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Winthrop University in 2001 and holds certification as a Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker. Her previous professional experience includes the Lancaster Department of Social Services, New Hope Carolinas and the York County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs.

OraQuick Rapid HIV Tests Now Available

CCC will now be using OraQuick HIV tests, a needle-free oral swab test that gives results in as little as 20 minutes. We have been using oral swab tests for some time now, but results typically took two weeks because tests were sent to a lab for processing.

As we transition to this new test, we will initially be testing mostly on-site at our Rock Hill and Lancaster offices. OraQuick tests require us to spend more time counseling individuals and to coordinate better with our clinic for follow-up if someone tests

positive for HIV. However, we hope to resume testing at our community sites soon. OraQuick testing will be offered at CCC on Mondays and Wednesdays by appointment only. Please call the Prevention Office at 803-909-6363 x242 for more information.

A Very Special Thank You

On April 27th, we celebrated our 4th Annual Dazzle 'N' Denim fund raiser at the Springs Dairy Barn with 175 patrons, 130 fabulous auction items, and great food, music and dancing. We are thrilled to report that it was our most successful event to date! Many thanks to our incredibly generous donors, patrons and sponsors! And a very special thanks to our Honorary Chairs (Bob & Cherry Doster and Terry & Caroline Roueche); the CCC Fund Raising Committee; and CCC Board, Staff and Volunteers!

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MID-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATES

Christopher Clinic

- Mental Health Counseling is now available on-site.
- 18 CCC clients are still on the ADAP wait list to receive life-saving HIV medications.
- We are working to improve client appointment compliance for our 2007 Continuous Quality Improvement Project.

Support Services

- Since October, the new Outreach Program has enrolled 40 clients into care who either dropped out previously or were diagnosed as HIV+ but never entered care.
- We've trained 12 new volunteers this year.

Prevention Services

- Since January, CCC has provided 103 people with HIV testing and 166 people with HIV outreach education.
- Many thanks to *The Hideaway*, a Rock Hill nightclub. They sponsored a benefit for CCC in May that resulted in a generous cash donation and a great supply of food and toiletries to help stock our emergency pantries.



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UPCOMING EVENTS...

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY *Wednesday, June 27th*

An estimated 250,000 people in the United States are HIV positive and don't even know it. In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, CCC will be hosting a special HIV testing event from 11am to 3pm at Faith, Hope, and Victory Church in Lancaster, SC. Tests are free, confidential and painless, and refreshments and prizes will be available to anyone who gets tested. We will also provide free walk-in HIV testing on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of that week from 9am to 3pm at our Rock Hill office.

Please call the Prevention Office at 803-909-6363 x242 for more information.

BOB DOSTER'S BACKSTREET STUDIO EVENT *Friday, September 7th*

On September 7th, Bob Doster's Backstreet Studio in Lancaster will host an art opening and reception, with proceeds from sales that evening benefitting CCC's programs and services. The event will include music, refreshments, and artwork by regional and national artists and will feature recent works by local artist George Young. Join us from 7-9 pm at Bob Doster's Backstreet Studio, 217 East Gay Street, Lancaster, SC 29720.

Please call 803-909-6363 x243 for more information.

HELP US SAVE A TREE!

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please send an e-mail to Sally Baker at:
sbaker@catawbacare.org



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